



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

MINUTES OF THE 687th MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 687th meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on October 18, 2007, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nelson L. Atkins, Chair
Bertrum M. CeDillos
Andrew Friedman
Gary L. Barr
William J. Galloway
Ann Jackson
Carol Rose
Annie Y. Huang

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Paul A. Jacob
Clifton Albright
Sylvia Scott Hayes
Neal S. Millard

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Heather Aubry, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
Detective Bernard Barber, Los Angeles Police Department
Devallis Rutledge, District Attorney's Office
Laura Green, Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender
James Endman, Los Angeles Superior Court

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Dardy Chen, Superior Court
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court
Margaret Little, Superior Court

STAFF

Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff
Martha Arana, Commission Staff
Mireya Rivera, Commission Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Atkins called the 687th regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:32 p.m.

MEMBERS

Nelson L. Atkins
Chair

Paul A. Jacobs
Vice Chair

Clifton Albright
Bertrum CeDillos
Andrew Friedman
Gary L. Barr
William J. Galloway
Ann Jackson
Neal S. Millard
Carol L. Rose
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner CeDillos. Introductions of Commissioners, Ex Officio Members, and Justice Deputies of the Board of Supervisors, Staff and Guests followed. Commissioner CeDillos also welcomed and introduced the newest member appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Antonovich, Commissioner Annie Y. Huang.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2007

On motion of Commissioner CeDillos, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of August 16, 2007, were approved as submitted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER – COMMISSIONER BERT CEDILLOS

Commissioner CeDillos welcomed the Honorable J. Stephen Czuleger, who has been the Presiding Judge of Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) since January 2, 2007. Judge Czuleger gave an overview of the LASC and discussed some of its challenges.

- The LASC has the largest trial court in the United States.
- The Courts could not operate without a positive working relationship with Los Angeles County. The LASC interacts with the Los Angeles Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, Children Services, Mental Health and other County Departments on a daily basis.
- The LASC has an average of approximately 2.7 million annual cases that are filed in Court and which are processed by 6,000 employees. In the last reporting period, 1.7 million traffic infractions were issued and the following cases were filed:
 - 470,000 criminal
 - 300,000 civil
 - 118,000 family law
 - 41,000 Juvenile
- Nearly 2.7 million people were summoned by the LASC Juror Services Division during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.
- The Superior Court has improved caseload processes. The length of an average civil case trial has decreased from five years to 16 months. Additionally, eighty percent of criminal cases are resolved within 120 days.

- Quality is very important to the Courts. Every case must be resolved in a timely and just manner.
- The LASC has nearly 600 bench officers comprised of judges, commissioners, referees, and pro tems that provide service to all of Los Angeles County. One hundred-fifty judges were added last year, and although the LASC is the largest trial court in the state, it received only four of the 150 new judges. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts statistics, thirty additional judges are needed.
- Funding and insufficient resources for the LASC are major challenges. At this time, Superior Court is not able to obtain additional funding from legislature.
- Child care waiting rooms were opened in several locations to ensure that parents have a safe and secure place for their children when they visit the Court. A total of seven child care waiting rooms have been opened in the courthouses of Airport, Antelope Valley, Stanley Mosk, Compton, Long Beach, Pomona, and Santa Monica. The eighth waiting room is in the process of being opened in the Van Nuys Court House.
- Judge Czuleger announced that the Self-Help Legal Access Center located on the 4th Floor of the Stanley Mosk Court House is available. The Self-Help Legal Access Center services over 350 customers, on a daily basis, who have no legal representation, enabling thousands of customers to complete documents quickly and effectively. Self-Help Legal Access Centers are also operated at other LASCs.

Following a question and answer forum, Commissioner CeDillos thanked Judge Czuleger for this informative presentation.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 687th meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:21 p.m.